

Steroids

Commonly abused steroids: Anadrol, Oxandrin, Dianabol, Winstrol, Durabolin, Depo-Testosterone, and Equipoise

What is the form of steroids?

- There are more than 100 types of anabolic steroids, and each requires a prescription.

What are the methods of usage?

- Oral ingestion
- Injection
- Rubbed on the skin in the form of gels or creams

Who uses steroids?

- Steroid use among young adults and high school students is much more prevalent among males than females.
- Among 19-22 year olds surveyed in 2000, 18.9% reported having a friend who was a current user of steroids.
- 1.4% of young adults (ages 19-28) surveyed in 2000 reported using steroids at least one time during their lives.¹

How do steroids get to the United States?

- Illicit anabolic steroids are often sold at gyms, competitions, and through mail operations.
- Steroids are also illegally diverted from U.S. pharmacies or synthesized in clandestine laboratories.
- Anabolic steroids are illicitly smuggled from Mexico and European countries to the United States.
- Recent DEA reporting indicates that Russian, Romanian, and Greek nationals are significant traffickers of steroids.²

What are some consequences of steroid use?

- Effects associated with anabolic steroid abuse range from acne and breast development in men, increased irritability and aggression, to liver cancer, heart attacks, and high cholesterol.³
 - People who inject steroids run the risk of contracting or transmitting hepatitis or HIV.⁴
 - Withdrawal symptoms include mood swings, fatigue, restlessness, loss of appetite, insomnia, reduced sex drive, and depression.⁵
 - This depression can lead to suicide attempts and if left untreated, can persist for a year or more after the abuser stops taking the drugs.⁶
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1 National Institute on Drug Abuse, Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-2000, Volume I: Secondary School Students.

2 Drug Enforcement Administration, Drug Trafficking in the United States, September 2001.

3 Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Facts: Steroids, May 2002.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Research Report: Anabolic Steroid Abuse, April 2000.